

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 1-7 and 12-15 are pending in this application.

Request for Return of Form PTO-1449:

On December 5, 2000, an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) including a Form PTO-1449 was filed in the present application. As of the present date, however, an initialed and dated Form PTO-1449 has not been returned to the offices of the undersigned. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the references cited on the Form PTO-1449 be initialed as an indication that these references have been fully considered and then a fully initialed and dated Form PTO-1449 be returned. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant has submitted a fresh copy of the Form PTO-1449.

Request to Acknowledge Applicant's Claim for Foreign Priority Under 35 U.S.C. §119 and Receipt of Copies of the Certified Copies of the Priority Documents:

The present application is a national phase filing of international application no. PCT/GB99/01662 designating the U.S. The Notification of Acceptance Under 35 U.S.C. §371 and 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 (Form PCT/DO/EO/903) mailed November 11, 2000 expressly acknowledges receipt of the priority documents. In light of this earlier acknowledgement that the priority documents have been properly received by the USPTO via WIPO and the PCT process, the Examiner is respectfully requested to review the application and to acknowledge Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and receipt of copies of certified copies of the priority documents.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Hellemans et al (hereinafter "Hellemans"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

For a reference to anticipate a claim, each element must be found, either expressly or under principles of inherency, in the reference. Applicant respectfully submits that Hellemans fails to disclose each element of the claimed invention. For example, Hellemans fails to disclose an object-oriented application programming interface having first, second and third object classes, as required by independent claims 1 and 2 and their respective dependents. Moreover, Hellemans fails to disclose or even suggest a first framework object class defining software objects to be instantiated on a client machine during participation in a service session, a second framework object class defining software objects to be instantiated on a server during the service session and representing the service session, and a third framework object class defining software objects also to be instantiated on a server but representing service participation. There is no teaching or suggestion of a data store holding such an interface as required by independent claim 2.

Dependent claims 3-7 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 1. Applicant submits that Hellemans also fails to disclose the additional features required by these dependent claims. For example, Applicant submits that Fig. 2 fails to disclose or even suggest the features recited in claim 3 or 4 and section 5.3 on page 181 of Hellemans fails to disclose or suggest the features required by claims 5 or 6.

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Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-7 are not anticipated by Hellemans and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

Claims 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Genette et al. Claims 8-11 have been canceled and thus this rejection is deemed moot.

New Claims:

New claims 12-15 have been added to provide additional protection for the invention. Since claims 12-15 depend from independent base claim 2, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 2.

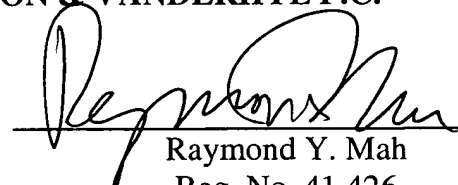
Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

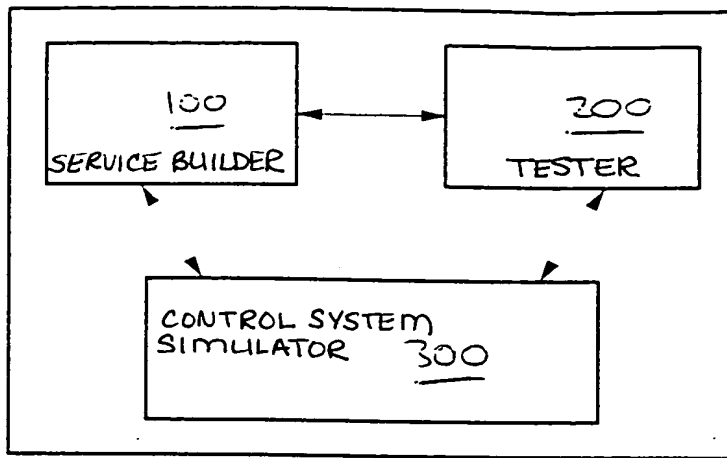
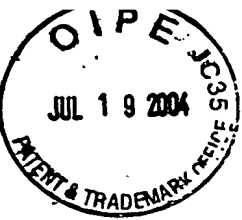
Respectfully submitted,

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2400
WORKSTATION

FIG 17

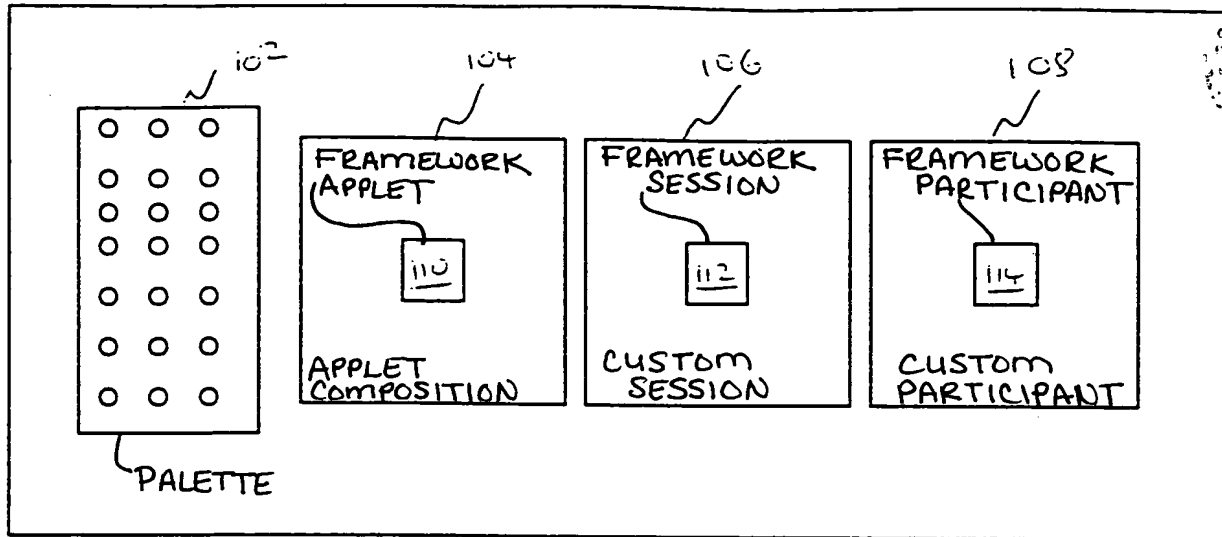


FIG. 18

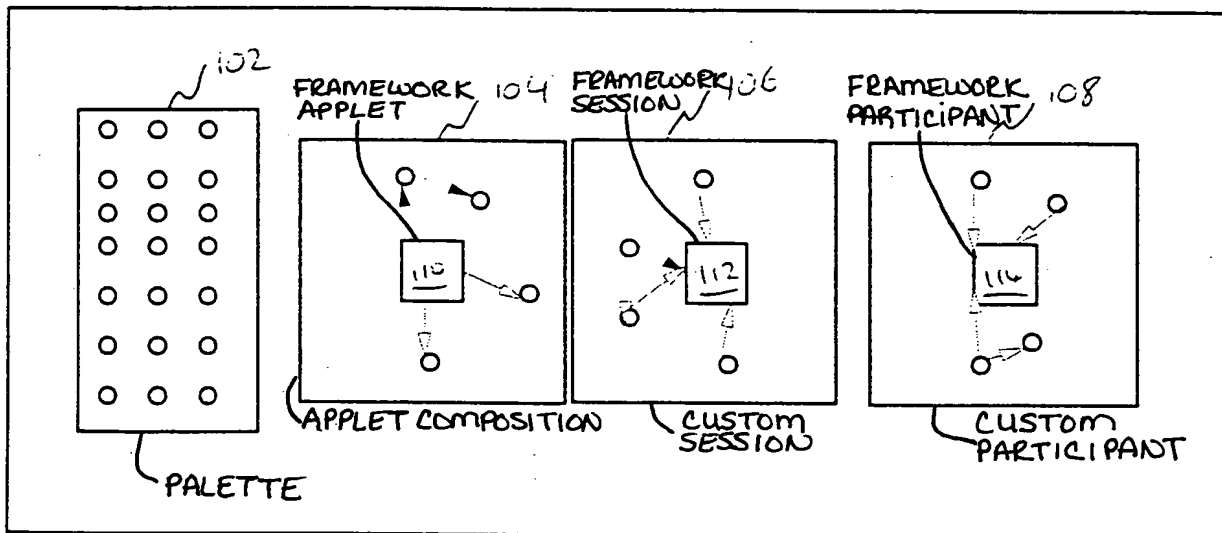


FIG. 19

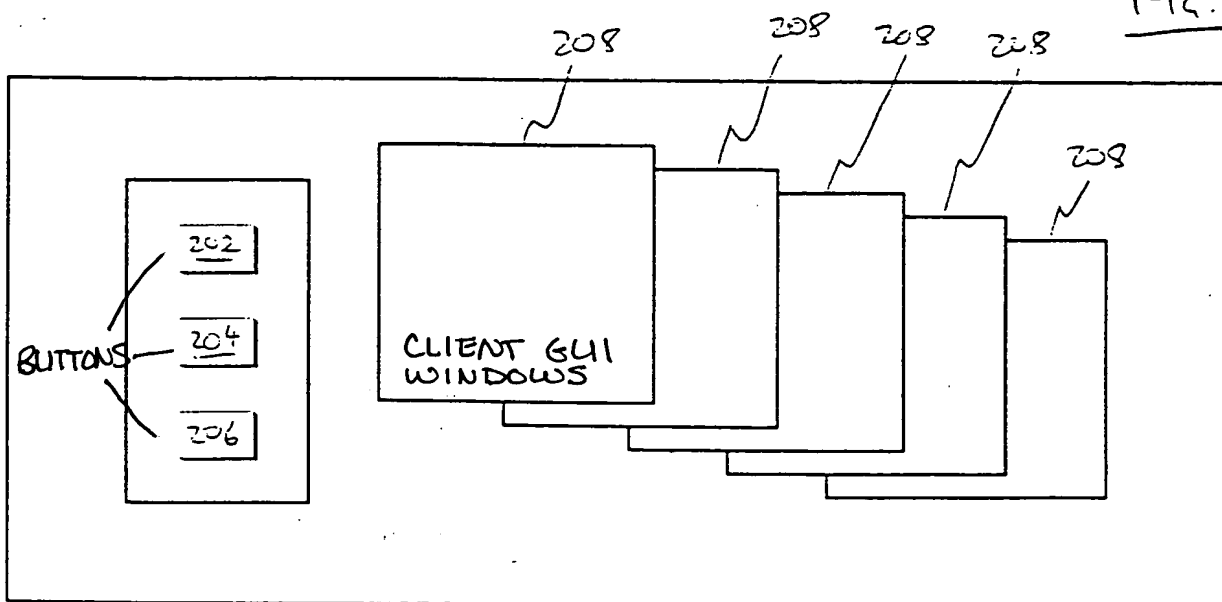


FIG. 20